

Planning Capabilities

UCOWR PARTNERSHIP

Partnership with Universities Council on Water Resources

Academic institutions may have a key role in building and sustaining Corps planning capability. The task force entered into discussions with the [Universities Council on Water Resources \(UCOWR\)](#) to explore whether there might be areas of common interest in the training of Corps planners. UCOWR is an organization representing over 90 universities that provide water resources education. The co-chairs of the task force met with UCOWR representatives on 28 Sep 00 at IWR to begin determine interest in and potential for cooperative relationship with UCOWR. Topics explored in this initial meeting included:

- obtaining academic credit for Corps in-house training courses;
- developing a certification program for water resources planners;
- providing easy access to university courses for Corps planners;
- hiring students under co-op program rules, and planners graduating from university programs;
- potential for leveraging university and Corps resources and programs.

Based on a productive first meeting, the task force and UCOWR mutually agreed to continue discussions. The task force co-chairs met with the UCOWR Board of Directors on 11 November. UCOWR offered to assemble an academic advisory board to work with the Corps in the development of an academic degree program in water resources planning that meets Corps needs, and academic requirements. Planners would receive academic credit for certain in-house Corps courses; in addition, planners could take credit-granting courses offered by participating universities, and then would spend a short period of time at the degree-granting participating university of their choice to complete course and matriculation requirements for an MS degree in water resources planning.

The task force believes these discussions show great promise and recommends that the Corps and UCOWR partner on a water resources planner academic curriculum, as well as other related topics to improve Corps planning capability. A draft Memorandum of Agreement establishing this partnership is attached.

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Partnering Agreement between the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Universities Council on Water Resources